

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 113-119 are pending in this application.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested. The Examiner's reasons for rejection are addressed below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 113-117 and 119 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson, in particular Fig. 4 thereof. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejections of Claims 113-117 and 119.

Johnson's apparatus includes a pedestal 80 comprising a vertical shaft portion that conveys a gas 13, and a horizontal plate centered about and projecting radially from a top portion of the vertical shaft portion. A susceptor 15 is supported by risers 81 that project vertically from the horizontal plate. See Johnson, Figures 1 and 4; page 3, lines 13-28.

Applicants note that Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary defines *arm* as "a slender part of a structure, machine, or an instrument projecting from a main part, axis, or fulcrum." *Arm* is also defined as a "narrow extension of a larger area, mass, or group."

Applicants contend that Johnson does not disclose or suggest supporting a susceptor on a plurality of support arms that extend generally radially outward and upward from an upper section of a substantially vertical shaft, a central vertical axis of the shaft being aligned with a central vertical axis of the susceptor, as recited in Claim 113. First, as shown in Fig. 4 of Johnson, the risers 81 do not extend radially outward and upward from an upper section of a substantially vertical shaft. As noted above, the risers 81 of Johnson extend vertically upward from the horizontal plate of the pedestal 80, not from the vertical shaft portion of the pedestal 80. Second, the horizontal plate of Johnson's pedestal 80 is not a plurality of support arms because (in view of the definition of *arm* above) the horizontal plate does not comprise a plurality of slender parts of the pedestal 80 (See Fig. 1 of Johnson, which shows the horizontal portion of the pedestal 80 to be a plate). Therefore, Johnson does not teach a plurality of support arms that extend radially outward and upward from an upper section of a substantially vertical shaft.

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Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the §102(b) rejection of Claim 113 be withdrawn.

Claims 114-117 and 119 depend from and therefore include all of the limitations of Claim 113, in addition to reciting additional features of particular advantage and utility. Johnson does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claim 113, let alone the unique combinations of limitations of Claims 114-117 and 119. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejections of Claims 114-117 and 119 also be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 118 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,343,012 to Hardy et al. ("Hardy") or alternatively in view of JP 05013350 to Fukazawa ("Fukazawa").

Claim 118 depends from and therefore includes all of the limitations of Claim 113, in addition to reciting additional features of particular advantage and utility. Hardy and Fukazawa are cited for the specific recitation of limitations of Claim 118, and do not teach the deficiency of Johnson with respect to Claim 113. Thus, the cited combination of references does not include or suggest all of the limitations of Claim 113 (see above), let alone the unique combinations of limitations of Claim 118. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the §103(a) rejection of Claim 118 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record. The cited references, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention.

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Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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